

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

Document No.: AK-040-CX00-029

*Lease/Serial/Case File No. AA-77835

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Proposed Action Title/Types: Noncompetitive Mineral Material Sale

Location of Proposed Action: Sec. 5, T. 29 N., R. 58 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska

Description of Proposed Action: The Proposed Action is to rip and remove 3,000 cubic yards of rock material from the bottom of an existing rock quarry site and to transport the material over Federal Public Lands for use in an Alaska Department of Transportation (DOT) bridge project for the village of Anvik, Alaska. The project is described in the Anvik Bridge Replacement Design Study Report, which was submitted by the DOT, and correspondence contained within Case File AA-77835. The original mining plan, submitted in 1995, and contained in the Case File, lays out the specific locations of the pit and access roads. The plan was accompanied by a topographical map of the site. The proposed startup of the rock quarry activity would begin the summer of 2001, and would continue through the early part of the 2002 winter season.

Equipment would be staged in the village, not onsite. Fuel handling will follow all Federal and State requirements. No fuel will be stored onsite. Access would be along an access road constructed across public lands in 1995. The access road is approximately one(1) mile long and has created approximately 2.5 acres of disturbance. The existing quarry site has approximately two(2) acres of surface disturbance. The DOT project manager has stated that all of the required rock material can be removed from the bottom of the existing pit and no additional surface disturbance will be necessary. However, in the unlikely case that the pit needs to be enlarged, a new environmental assessment would need to be prepared.

The rock material would be ripped with heavy equipment including bulldozers and excavators. The use of explosives is not anticipated in the removal, but may be necessary if harder material is encountered. The material will be screened in a portable screening plant and then stockpiled onsite for a period not to exceed two years. The material will be transported by truck to the public works project area within the village.

After the rock removal phase is concluded, the site will be cleared of all trash and debris. The pit will be clearly marked to protect the public. The village and Doyon have requested that the quarry site not be reclaimed as to provide a rock source for future projects. Should a need for additional rock material arise before the lands can be conveyed, up to 50,000 cu. yd. could be sold out of this pit.

Applicant (if any): State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Northern Region, Fairbanks Alaska

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southwest Management Framework Plan (MFP).

Date Plan Approved: November 1981

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

Remarks: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) compiled a Management Framework Plan for the Southwest Planning Area in 1981. The subject of mineral material sales was not dealt with specifically in this planning effort, but generally, the plan encourages development of mineral resources.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM (Cont'd.)

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PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.
This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1.____ (insert CX number) or 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4. F(10) .

B. Departmental Exceptions Review.
The following Departmental List of Exceptions apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents MUST BE PREPARED for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	___	<u>X</u>
2. Have adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics, historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks.	___	<u>X</u>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	___	<u>X</u>
5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	___	<u>X</u>
8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species.	___	<u>X</u>
9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.	___	<u>X</u>
10. Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	___	<u>X</u>

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks:

Preparer(s):

/s/ Carl Persson

*Date:

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January 26, 2001

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PART III - DECISION

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or stipulation(s) attached in this case file.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks: See attached stipulations.

Remarks:

Authorized Official

/s/ Peter J. Ditton

*Date

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January 26, 2001

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**Stipulations
for
Anvik Rock Sale**

1. The trucks and equipment will operate in a safe manner, including speed limits as dictated by road conditions, to avoid collisions with local villagers and wildlife. The contractor shall be responsible for safety training for the equipment operators.
2. All solid waste, other than waste rock and topsoil stockpiles, will be removed from the site and properly disposed of at an approved facility. Waste rock stockpiles will be placed along the edge of the pit to be used during final reclamation. The quarry will not be required to be reclaimed after completion of this project at Ingalik, Inc's. and Doyon's request. Ingalik, Inc. and Doyon are planning continued use of the quarry for future operations.
3. The pit will be clearly posted with warning signs to protect the public against hazards such as high-walls or high-wall failure.
4. The contractor shall follow all applicable local, State and Federal laws and regulations.
5. No disturbance outside of the existing previously disturbed quarry or road area is authorized. Prior approval for such disturbance is required.